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His Excellency,
Dr. Javier Pérez de Cuellar,
Secretary General of the United Nations,
New York. U.S.A.

June 27, 1990.

Your Excellency,

The plight of the people of East Timor has concerned Canadian people for some time. We are kept informed of the situation by reputable organizations such as the East Timor Alert Network and the South Pacific Peoples' Foundation. As you know, the process of decolonization of Portuguese Timor has still not been resolved by the United Nations.

Recently, a letter addressed to yourself by the Bishop of East Timor, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, has been brought to my attention. In that letter, Bishop Belo appeals to your Excellency to support a United Nations sponsored referendum in East Timor to enable the people of that region to freely decide their future.

Bishop Belo's request is not motivated by personal or political interests, but is consistent with the historical role of the Catholic Church in the region, embodying the wishes of the people. Both Bishop Belo and the former bishop da Costa Lopes have stood by the people in their suffering and shared their aspirations to live in freedom and dignity.

I fully support Bishop Belo's request and add my own urging to the support of a referendum in East Timor.

Respectfully Yours,

+ Remi J. De Roo

+Remi J. De Roo
Bishop of Victoria

cc Rt. Hon. Joe Clark